

State of Minnesota
County of Anoka

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.
Court File No.

MD-2019-00020
02-CR-19-3810

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Summons

vs.

CONNER BENJAMIN WALSH DOB: 01/08/1994

[REDACTED]
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Hunting - Protected Birds

Minnesota Statute: 97B.701

Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 09/28/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18021746

Charge Description: On or about September 28, 2018, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, CONNER BENJAMIN WALSH, did take a protected bird, their nest, or their eggs in violation of game and fish laws.

COUNT II

Charge: Hunting - Protected Birds

Minnesota Statute: 97B.701

Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 09/28/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18021746

Charge Description: On or about September 28, 2018, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, CONNER BENJAMIN WALSH, did take a protected bird, their nest, or their eggs in violation of game and fish laws.

COUNT III

Charge: Hunting - Small Game Without a License

Minnesota Statute: 97B.601.1

Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 09/28/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18021746

Charge Description: On or about September 28, 2018, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, CONNER BENJAMIN WALSH, did take small game without a small game license.

COUNT IV

Charge: Fish and Game - No migratory waterfowl stamp validation

Minnesota Statute: 97B.801(a)

Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 09/28/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18021746

Charge Description: On or about September 28, 2018, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, CONNER BENJAMIN WALSH, did take migratory waterfowl without a migratory waterfowl stamp validation.

COUNT V

Charge: Hunting - Take migratory waterfowl, coots or rails in open water

Minnesota Statute: 97B.805.1(a), with reference to: 97A.301.1(1)

Maximum Sentence: 0-90 days imprisonment and/or \$300-\$1000 fine

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 09/28/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18021746

Charge Description: On or about September 28, 2018, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, CONNER BENJAMIN WALSH, did take migratory waterfowl. coots, or rails in open water while (1) not within a natural growth of vegetation sufficient to partially conceal the person or boat; (2) not on a river or stream that is not more than 100 yards in width; (3) not pursuing or shooting wounded birds; or (4) not in areas specifically designated for such taking by the commissioner by rule.

COUNT VI

Charge: Game-License Required to Take/Buy/Sell/Transport/Possess Protected Wild Animals

Minnesota Statute: 97A.405.1, with reference to: 97A.301.1(1)

Maximum Sentence: 0-90 days imprisonment and/or \$300-\$1000 fine

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 09/28/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18021746

Charge Description: On or about September 28, 2018, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, CONNER BENJAMIN WALSH, did take, buy, sell, transport or possess protected wild animals of this state without a license.

COUNT VII

Charge: Watercraft - Personal Floatation or Lifesaving Devices Required

Minnesota Statute: 86B.501.1, with reference to: 86B.811.1

Maximum Sentence:

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 09/28/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18021746

Charge Description: On or about September 28, 2018, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, CONNER BENJAMIN WALSH, did operate a watercraft using the waters of the State of Minnesota while not equipped with the number and type of personal floatation or lifesaving devices prescribed by law.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On September 28, 2018, at approximately 9:26 a.m., the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources received a report of an individual hunting on open water on Rice Lake in Lino Lakes, Anoka County. After learning of the report, Conservation Lieutenant Tony Salzer, Conservation Officer Luke Gutzwiller, and Conservation Officer Tyler Ramaker of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources responded to the northwest shore of Rice Lake at approximately 11:00 a.m. A trumpeter swan was observed swimming out from a point on the east end of Rice Lake into the open water of the lake. Following behind the trumpeter swan was an individual in a blue kayak with a red paddle. The individual paddling the kayak, subsequently identified as **Conner Benjamin Walsh, D.O.B. 08/01/1994**, the defendant herein, was seen raising a long gun to his right shoulder. While on open water, the defendant fired the long gun at the trumpeter swan. The swan dropped over in the water. The defendant was observed grabbing the swan and dragging the bird alongside the kayak. Trumpeter swans are federally protected birds and cannot be taken without authorization under the Minnesota game and fish laws.

Conservation officers intercepted the defendant on the lake in his kayak as he was paddling toward the south end of lake. Draped across the bow of the kayak were two trumpeter swans. The defendant was not wearing a life jacket. The officers removed from the kayak a Winchester Model 1300 12-gauge shotgun. When asked for his hunting license, the defendant stated that he had left his hunting license in his car.

Conservation officers met the defendant as he came off the lake. The defendant produced for the conservation officers a hunting license for 2016. The defendant explained that he had purchased a current hunting license a couple of days prior at Home Depot or Fleet Farm. A search of the Department of Natural Resources Electronic Licensing System failed to find a small game license issued to the defendant for 2018 or 2017. The search also determined that the defendant had not purchased the required waterfowl stamps to hunt waterfowl for 2018 or 2017. The defendant explained that he had attempted to purchase a hunting license and stamps at Fleet Farm, but he was denied because his driver's license was expired.

The defendant told the conservation officers that he started hunting at approximately 6:45 a.m. on September 28, 2018. The defendant stated that he had shot a duck that he did not immediately retrieve. The defendant stated that he left the duck in the water for about 10 minutes and he could not find it when he went to retrieve it. The defendant stated he saw the two trumpeter swans that he thought were snow geese. The defendant stated that he shot both trumpeter swans, killing them.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Adam Block
Conservation
500 Lafayette Road
P.O. Box 47
St. Paul, MN 55155
Badge: 479

Electronically Signed:
06/13/2019 12:02 PM
Ramsey County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Bryan R. Lindberg
2100 3rd Ave
Anoka, MN 55303-2265
(763) 324-5550

Electronically Signed:
06/13/2019 11:37 AM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

☒ SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on **July 17, 2019 at 1:00 PM** before the above-named court at 2100 Third Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

☐ WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

☐ *Execute in MN Only*

☐ *Execute Nationwide*

☐ *Execute in Border States*

☐ ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: June 13, 2019.

Judicial Officer

Karin McCarthy

Electronically Signed: 06/13/2019 01:17 PM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Conner Benjamin Walsh

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
*I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this
Summons upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Name: Conner Benjamin Walsh
DOB: 01/08/1994
Address: [REDACTED]
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Alias Names/DOB:

SID:

Height:

Weight:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Gender: MALE

Race: White

Fingerprints Required per Statute: No

Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: No

Driver's License #:

Case Scheduling Information: Please set the first appearance on the Co Atty/Linwood/DNR calendar.

Alcohol Concentration:

STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	9/28/2018	97B.701 Hunting-Protected Birds	Misdemeanor	M6203		MNCON0000	18021746
2	Charge	9/28/2018	97B.701 Hunting-Protected Birds	Misdemeanor	M6203		MNCON0000	18021746
3	Charge	9/28/2018	97B.601.1 Hunting-Small Game Without a License	Misdemeanor	M6204		MNCON0000	18021746
4	Charge	9/28/2018	97B.801(a) Fish and Game - No migratory waterfowl stamp validation	Misdemeanor	M6204		MNCON0000	18021746
5	Charge	9/28/2018	97B.805.1(a) Hunting - Take migratory waterfowl, coots or rails in open water	Misdemeanor	M6203		MNCON0000	18021746
	Penalty	9/28/2018	97A.301.1(1) Game and Fish-Take/Buy/Sell/Trans/Poss Wild Animal	Misdemeanor	M6203		MNCON0000	18021746
6	Charge	9/28/2018	97A.405.1 Game-License Required to Take/Buy/Sell/Transport/Possess Protected Wild Animals	Misdemeanor	M6203		MNCON0000	18021746
	Penalty	9/28/2018	97A.301.1(1) Game and Fish-Take/Buy/Sell/Trans/Poss Wild Animal	Misdemeanor	M6203		MNCON0000	18021746
7	Charge	9/28/2018	86B.501.1 Watercraft-Personal Floatation or Lifesaving Devices Required	Misdemeanor	M6299		MNCON0000	18021746
	Penalty	9/28/2018	86B.811.1 Watercraft-Violation	Misdemeanor	M6299		MNCON0000	18021746